

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, each November, our nation recognizes the contributions of the First Americans during National Native American Heritage Month. Minnesota is home to eleven proud Ojibwe and Dakota nations, and those nations and their people are a vital part of our state's heritage and our future.

American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are the source of America's first participatory democracy and the population with the highest rates of service in our nation's armed services. Their cultures and communities have endured despite centuries of violence, injustice, and discrimination. That legacy must never be buried or ignored, but I am committed to working with tribal leaders to move forward in a new era of respect and self-governance throughout Indian Country.

The nation-to-nation relationship between our federal government and the 567 diverse, federally recognized tribal nations across the country has been strengthened tremendously under President Obama. I am proud to have worked with the President and my colleagues in Congress to pass major legislation to better meet our federal trust responsibility, strengthen tribal self-governance, and support Native families, like the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Tribal Law and Order Act, and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Investing in the health, safety, and education of Native youth, in particular, must be a priority for Congress. Native American youth deserve the same opportunities to shape their futures and succeed as any other child in America. Earlier this month, tribal leaders and Native youth joined President Obama and senior officials from throughout his Administration at the 7th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference. I was incredibly proud to see young people representing their Native nations and sitting with our President, sharing their priorities and discussing their future. Whether standing against racism in their schools, advocating for opportunities in their communities, or preserving their languages and cultures, the powerful voices and actions of Native youth are helping to build a brighter future for all young people in this country.

Yet even with the progress we have made, tremendous work remains to realize that future. As sovereign nations, tribal governments play an essential role in serving the needs of their tribal members and defending the rights of their Nations. We must follow through on our federal responsibility to Native Americans with greater and more meaningful consultation and with legislative action that supports tribal self-determination, governmental parity, and significant investments throughout Indian Country.

As we honor the heritage and resilience of our Native American brothers and sisters this month, we also commit to working together to build stronger communities and a stronger nation because when Indian Country is strong, America is strong.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR
BOY SCOUT TROOP 16

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Boy Scout Troop 16, which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on November 28, 2015, at Genetti's Banquet Hall in Dickson City, Pennsylvania. Troop 16 has a long history of upholding the values of the Boy Scouts of America and serving its community with dignity and honor.

Established in 1915, Troop 16 was organized through the efforts of Pennsylvania Representative, John Scheuer. William Longcor served as the initial Scoutmaster of Troop 16. The Troop's first camping trip took place at Lake Ariel during the summer 1915 under the supervision of Scoutmaster Longcor and Assistant Scoutmaster Walter E. Mohr. The troop's inaugural banquet was held in December 1915, and the first Parents' night was in June 1916. The Troop completed its first Council Camp in 1919 at Bidwell's Pond.

Troop 16 has taken numerous camping expeditions over the years, including ones to Mountain Lake, Camp Grieser, Gettysburg, Camp Lackawanna, Washington D.C., Valley Forge, and Goose Pond. In the 1970s, the Troop participated in Scout Expositions at the Watres Armory in Scranton, with Troop 16 winning several awards. In 2008 and 2014, the Troop sent crews to High Adventure at the Florida Sea Base in the Florida Keys. Since its founding, Troop 16 has attended Summer Camp at Goose Pond and has the distinction of counting 238 Eagle Scouts as alumni.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Boy Scout Troop 16 as it celebrates a century of service. These scouts' and leaders' devotion to scouting has enriched the lives of many and has had a lasting, positive impact on their community. I wish the Troop the best as it continues to uphold the traditions of the Boy Scouts of America.

DR. HARRIET HALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Harriet Hall for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

Dr. Hall has made a significant contribution to the community through advocacy, passion and unwavering commitment to people with mental health disorders and their families. She has worked to reduce the stigma of mental illness, to bring the public's attention to urgent matters of mental health, and collaborated with government and business leaders to produce innovative changes for mental health care. Dr. Hall's contributions extend beyond

her work in the mental health field and with her help for some of the neediest portions of the community such as the homeless, indigent and families in turmoil.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Harriet Hall for receiving the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Thank you for your leadership and service to the community.

HONORING TED "GUNNER"
OUSLEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a man that many in my District know by only one name.

Ted Ousley—or simply "Gunner" as he is known to his many fans—is one of the most popular people in my District and a longtime personality with WIVK radio in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Each weekday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. "Your Cowboy Pal" Gunner entertains listeners with his unique brand of East Tennessee charm, humor, and grace.

He loves his job, and you can tell when listening to his show. He once said that he was "living his dream" by being on the air with WIVK.

In 2003 and 2004, Gunner was voted the Best DJ by Metro Pulse readers and was a finalist for the Marconi Air Personality of the Year.

But Gunner is not just known for his entertainment. He is also a tireless champion of Veterans.

Following the September 11th terror attacks in 2001, Gunner started a segment on his show called "Voices from the Front" where he would connect families over the phone with their loved ones serving in the wars. It was hugely popular and emotional for him and his listeners.

In 2004, he traveled to Iraq, and upon his return led an effort to bring to the United States for treatment an 8-year-old suffering from a severe form of Spina Bifida.

In 2009, Gunner received the first annual Civilian Warrior Award for his work with the 844th Engineer Battalion.

East Tennessee is one of the most patriotic places in this Country. Each year, Gunner helps lead the Veterans Day parade in Knoxville, which is attended by many thousands of people.

In addition to his service to Veterans, Gunner finds the time to run two East Tennessee farms and serve on the Board of Directors of the East Tennessee Alzheimer's Association.

Mr. Speaker, Ted "Gunner" Ousley embodies the Volunteer spirit of East Tennessee.

His humility and dedication to those who serve will forever hold a place in our hearts, and I thank him for his dedication to this Country and wish him success as he continues to entertain us each day.

I also call his work with Veterans to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers in hopes that he will be an inspiration to many more.